New Species of *Tricarpelema* (Commelinaceae) from Africa and Asia, Including the First Record of the Genus from Africa and a Synopsis of the Genus

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Abstract. *Tricarpelema africanum* Faden is described from Central Africa, representing the first African species of this otherwise Asian genus. The species is so distinct that *Tricarpelema* J. K. Morton subgen. *Keatingia* Faden is described for it, based mainly on its unusual vegetative morphology. *Tricarpelema brevipedicellatum* Faden is described from two Vietnamese collections that were previously treated as *Aneilema montanum* (Wight) Wallich ex C. B. Clarke or *Dictyospermum montanum* Wight. It differs from all other continental Asian species by its one-seeded locules. A key to all eight named *Tricarpelema* species is provided, along with a synopsis of the species, including full taxonomy and synonymy. *Pollia subumbellata* C. B. Clarke var. *glabra* Hallier f. is a new synonym for *T. philippense* (Panigrahi) Faden. The following names are lectotypified: *T. giganteum* (Hasskarl) H. Hara, *T. philippense* (Panigrahi) Faden, and *Pollia subumbellata* C. B. Clarke var. *glabra* Hallier f.

Key words: Africa, Commelinaceae, inselberg, *Tricarpelema*, Vietnam.

The genus *Tricarpelema* J. K. Morton was described by Morton (1966) for a single Himalayan species of Commelinaceae that did not fit within his circumscriptions of *Aneilema* R. Brown or *Dictyospermum* Wight. Hong (1974, 1981) added two new, closely related species from China to the genus. Faden (1975), in an unpublished Ph.D. thesis, emended the delimitation of *Tricarpelema* and treated it as a subgenus of *Dictyospermum*, but he did not publish these changes. Rao (1980) transferred the second Indian species to *Tricarpelema*. Faden (1991) recognized *Tricarpelema* as a distinct genus and transferred a species from the Philippines and Borneo to it. A sixth species, endemic to Borneo, was transferred to *Tricarpelema* in Cowley and Faden (1996). In the most recent account of the genus, Faden (1998) recognized a total of seven Asian species of *Tricarpelema*, with possibly an eighth, undescribed species in Central Africa. The generic status of the African species remained in doubt. It is described below as *T. africanum* Faden. One of the Asian species of *Tricarpelema*, from Vietnam, was also undescribed. It is described herein as *T. brevipedicellatum* Faden.

New Species of *Tricarpelema* J. K. Morton

Tricarpelema africanum Faden, sp. nov. TYPE: Cameroon. South Province: Ntem Department, Ebolowa Arrondissement, Village of Meyos, 2°48′N, 11°13′E, alt. ca. 750 m, growing on rocky cliffs in full sunlight, 27 Oct. 1990, *Bill* [William F.] *Keating BK90–23* (holotype, US sheet 1 [US#3216404]; isotypes, K, MO, P, US sheet 2 [US#3216405], YA). Figure 1.

Herba perennis internodiis vaginis imbricatis vestitis. Folia distichia lamina sessili moderate succulenta glanduloso-pubescenti. Inflorescentia thyrsus laxus plerumque complexus, 5–25(−30) × 4–10(−16) cm, axibus sparse glanduloso-pubescentibus. Flores androecio staminum trium posticorum brevius stamine medio antheram plerumque carentem et staminum trium anticorum subaequalis longius composito. Capsulae stipitatae aequaliter trivalvares triloculares loculis 3–5-seminalibus. Semina uniseriata.

Decumbent perennial rooting at the lower nodes; roots thin, fibrous; internodes ± covered by overlapping leaf sheaths, except distally on the flowering shoot, 2.8–6 cm, the basal ones glabrous, the distal ones sparsely glandular-pubescent. Leaves all distichous, or sometimes spirally arranged distally on the flowering shoot, only slightly reduced distally on the flowering shoots, persistent on the old stems, sheaths (0.4–)1–2 cm, glandular-pubescent, ciliate at the apex with similar hairs; lamina sessile, strongly conduplicate when dry, moderately succulent, narrowly lanceolate to linear-lanceolate or lanceolate-oblong, broadest at the base, 4–11.5 × 1–1.5 cm, apex acuminate, base rounded, amplexicaul, both surfaces sparsely glandular-pubescent, the adaxial surface more densely so than the abaxial; margins somewhat revolute (at least in dried specimens), scabrid with prickle-hairs (terminology of Tomlinson, 1966), also sparsely ciliate basally with glandular hairs. Inflorescence a pedunculate, terminal and sometimes